

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #33

February 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been three months since my last message to the CARTS membership, and we've passed some milestones in the interim. Our second joint meeting with SETS went smoothly last November in Villa Rica, Georgia. Several CARTS members were in attendance, as were several SETS members. Many tokens changed hands and I believe all the attendees had a good time.

Most of you do not realize it but CARTS has now grown past its predecessor organization (CAR-TAMS) in both longevity and number of issues of newsletters printed. CAR-TAMS folded in its eighth year, having printed 31 issues of the CAR-TAMS Quarterly newsletter. CARTS has now started its ninth year and is going strong. And with this issue of CARTSNEWS, Don Bailey is to be congratulated on publishing the thirty-third installment. Great job Don!

Note that preparations are in full swing for our May 12th meeting in Clemmons, North Carolina. See elsewhere in this issue for information, especially about the planned benefit auction we will be conducting there. Please send any donations of tokens or related material to Don Bailey, so that a list of the auction items can be placed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Also, yearly dues are due! Please send \$10 to Bob King. See opposite for his address.

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro
President, Carolina Token Society

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First, it's that time of year again. Treasurer Bob King reports we have \$726.67 in our account and no liabilities. But only 7 people have paid dues. **So, if you have not yet paid your dues for 2012 please send a check ASAP** to treasurer Bob King (address below). Dues are still only \$10, and checks should be made payable to CARTS.

Next, the **May meeting of CARTS will be on May 12 in Clemmons, NC.** We will meet at the Holiday Inn Express, 6320 Amp Drive, Clemmons. This is just off Interstate 40 a bit west of Winston-Salem at exit 184. Directions will be repeated in the May *CARTSNEWS* with more information. But mark your calendar now! Also, **at the May meeting there will be a fund raising auction. Donations are solicited.** Look through your duplicates for those items you could bear to part with and send them to the editor, Don Bailey (address below). The May issue of *CARTSNEWS* will contain a listing of all auction items and it *will* reach you in time for mail bids—if you simply can't attend the meeting.

Contact Information:

Don Bailey
PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729
e-mail: ELADON@MORRISBB.NET
Tony Chibbaro
PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29217
e-mail: CHIBBARO@MINDSPRING.COM
Bob King
709 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712
e-mail: TOKENADDICT@CITCOM.NET

Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

UNION

SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

William M. Graham
106 Hidden Hill Road Union, SC 29379-9105
864-427-9560 wmg1260@gmail.com

NEW N.C. COUNTRY STORE HISTORY: JARVIS STORE “DUE-BILLS” AND “JACKET-CANS”

Lamar Bland

Many Carolinians remember country stores. I remember my dad driving a 1950 Chevrolet on a dirt road to Buck Walker’s store, where he sold chicken eggs and I got treated to Cracker Jacks, BB-bats, or licorice. Even in the 1950’s, this store seemed old to me because we did most of our shopping at the A&P or The Home Store—a chain store in a nearby town.

I later learned that country stores had been around much longer than the one of my childhood. They pre-date the 1950’s by more than a century. Pictured below is one in

Wilkes County which dates to the 1830’s. Its hand-hewn timbers still carry adze marks.



These stores dotted the northwestern North Carolina landscape before there were many roads, and before roads were paved for automobiles. People came to them on foot, on horseback, or in buggies—often from miles away. Many stores pre-dated electricity, telephones, local newspapers, or banks. They supplied products which families needed: shoes, cloth for making garments, kerosene, and staples for food preparation—eggs, butter, sugar, and salt. Fruits, berries, and vegetables

were sold in season. So were salt fish and game meat. Maypops, ginseng (called “sang”), and cherry-tree bark became local patent medicines. One owner even kept a pet black snake in his store for rat control.

An eighty-four year old told me she prefers to call them “neighborhood” stores. The word fits because of the many ways they served communities. Farmers went there to buy seeds, fertilizer and work gear. Some stores posted federal mail. Some listed taxes. Doctors gave shots there for typhoid and smallpox. Larger stores sold coffins, and those that didn’t were gathering places where folks learned about natural deaths—or catastrophes. News spread about relationships—or about marijuana busts. Because so much was needed in a remote community, larger stores might have an auxiliary operation as well—a granary (sometimes called a “hammer mill” or a “roller mill”), a cotton gin, a cider mill, a cannery, or a sawmill.

THE JARVIS STORE

The Jarvis store was one of these, located in the Windy Gap area of Wilkes County. In the 1920’s and 30’s it was owned by Romie Clinton Jarvis and Eugene Pressley Inscore (also known as E.P.), who are pictured below.



Romie Jarvis (1888-1976) E.P. Inscore (1891-1984)

Some of the services I’ve described had been available there since the 1880’s. Between its origin and the Jarvis/Inscore ownership, though, the store added “jacket-cans” to its inventory. A “jacket-can” was a metal can, five or ten gallons in size, covered by a wooden-and-wire wrap. Windy Gap was a location where folks distilled liquor to supplement family income. Distilled liquor was stored or transported in these containers on its way

to becoming “white lightning” in a glass jar. I learned this term for the container from Annie Jarvis, daughter-in-law of Romie Jarvis. She stands in front of the well-preserved Jarvis store in the following photograph.



Annie Jarvis at the store

And below is an enlarged image of the sign seen at the top of the store.



The store sold many jacket-cans during Prohibition (1920-33). Empty jacket-cans, Annie reports. But drivers often edged their cars up a tilted wooden block near the gas pumps to top-off their tanks for a heavier drive they would make after they had filled the cans. There were many, many runs. Since home-brewing was widespread in the area, federal agents frequently checked the probation status of men lounging on Jarvis store’s front porch.

Comments from both Jarvis and Inscore descendants indicate a business division between the two men. Jarvis and his wife Cora (Inscore) seemed responsible for the day-to-day operation of the store. When they became older, they passed that work down to their son Doyle and his wife, Annie Jarvis.

Inscore brought entrepreneurial initiative. Inscore’s daughter-in-law (Jean Alvis) and his granddaughter (Karen McElwee) say that E.P.

supplied more of the funds for their business venture. They identified him as a manager or supervisor in other operations where he raised dairy and beef cattle. He helped run a “roller mill,” and sold hardware (for which he had a life-long affection).

The partnership between Jarvis and Inscore ended by 1936. In 1937, Dun and Bradstreet’s business directory lists the business as R.C. Jarvis and Company. Fortunately, for collectors, it did not end before they issued Jarvis/Inscore tokens. There were five denominations—“good for” 5, 10, 25, 50, and \$1.00 “in trade.” Pictured below are both sides of the 5, with a few other denominations, all aluminum, shown as they appear in a Jarvis family booklet about the store.



Annie Jarvis called these tokens “due-bills,” a term for tokens I hadn’t heard before. Other elders in the county use this same term. “Due-bills” appeared in cardboard and paper as well, especially in the decades before World War I.

Inscore sold his part of the store to Jarvis. E.P.’s family (Jean and Karen) and Annie Jarvis agree that liquor was probably the main reason for the partnership ending. Karen said that E.P. had operated a still as a young man before Prohibition. He successfully sold non-taxed moonshine, and invested his profit in other business. The families concur however that illegal liquor was not sold at the Jarvis store. Sugar was sold in abundance

though, making the store an important conduit for “moonshiners” when sugar was rationed.

After the partnership ended, E.P. would open a new store on highway 115, which was recently built to link Statesville to Wilkesboro. My photograph indicates its larger size.



The upper floor was residential, including space for crew-members hired to assist in E.P.’s lumber business, as well as a cook who fed them when they worked nearby. Karen believes that a main reason for E.P.’s new store was to discourage his young sons (including her father Fred) from involvement in the liquor business. E.P. sold that store in 1947. No “due-bills” are known from this business.

I am grateful to Annie Jarvis, Jean Alvis, and Karen McElwee for sharing their memories relating to these men. In addition, they provided me with photographs and helpful print materials—the family monograph about the Jarvis store, and Jean’s copy of the Pat Davis booklet *The Good Old Boys and Memories Unravelled: Stories of the Citizens Who Made Wilkes County Great* (rich in “moonshine” narratives by both distillers and revenueurs). Other folks I haven’t named will recognize details about nearby stores which came from conversations I had with them. I can now identify twenty country stores which operated in Wilkes County during the seventy-five-year period of my focus. Twenty others were located in the northern section of adjacent Iredell County.

These stores were hugely important in what they contributed to the local culture. In different ways, they gave as much value to residents as the other essential institution nearby—country churches.

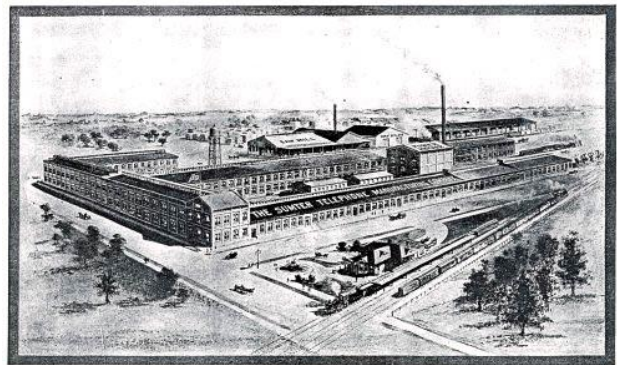
NEW FIND FROM SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHLIGHTS FORGOTTEN MANUFACTURING FIRM IN SUMTER

Tony Chibbaro

In the last issue of *CARTSNEWS* I featured an article on the resemblance of some tokens to bank checks, and this issue will highlight a new find which illustrates a different type of "check" token - the time check. Pictured below is a recent find courtesy of a certain peripatetic coin dealer that used to buy dug relics from famed South Carolina metal detectorist Joe Henderson. Joe, who lived in Sumter, actually hosted a relic hunting TV show which aired on the South Carolina ETV network. The show was cancelled several years back—to the detriment, in my opinion, of the metal detecting hobby. One of the items this certain dealer was able to purchase from Joe was this "time check" from the Sumter Telephone Manufacturing Company. The token was dug in Sumter, not far from the location of said business. The token measures 35mm, is made of brass, and features incuse lettering. It was manufactured by the American Stamp & Stencil Co. and is marked "AM. S. & S. CO." above the hole at 12 o'clock. The reverse is blank.



Time checks were used in a way totally different from trade tokens. Instead of being redeemable for goods or services, they were utilized in a manner similar to the way work tallies such as spooling checks were distributed at the state's cotton mills. Time checks were given to employees by their supervisors to show that the recipients had worked for a particular period of time and were entitled to receive a paycheck from the paymaster. Perhaps their function is best illustrated by the wording on one of the time checks issued by the Atlantic Coast Lumber Company. The cardboard token issued by that firm states "Employee's time check - this check not negotiable or transferable, issued for purposes of identification and receipt, surrender of this check will constitute your receipt for wages in full for month stamped on reverse side." It is safe to assume that the Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. issued and redeemed their time checks in a similar manner. And these two companies were not the only ones to use time checks in South Carolina. They were also used by other firms, such as Addison Cotton Mills in Edgefield and Union-Buffalo Cotton Mills in Buffalo. Many other companies issued similar looking checks that may very well have functioned as time checks, but are not marked as such. These include Abbeville Cotton Mills, E.P. Burton Lumber Company, the Lightsey Brothers, and the N.L. Hoover Lumber Company, to name just a few.



Plant of the Sumter Telephone Manufacturing Company.

SUMTER TELEPHONE MANUFACTURING CO

The Sumter Telephone Manufacturing Company was in business from 1899 through 1913. The company was organized by C.T. Mason, who had grown up helping his father make telegraphs and related equipment in Sumter. At the age of 21 he went north to supervise a machinery plant. During his stint there he happened to see Alexander

Graham Bell's original telephone on exhibit at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Intrigued by Bell's invention, he later returned to Sumter and founded the Mason Electrical Works, making telephones and switchboards of his own patented designs. In 1899, along with C.G. Rowland and F.C. Manning, Mason established The Sumter Telephone Manufacturing Company. For a period of almost 15 years, this firm built tens of thousands of telephones, switchboards, and other telephonic equipment for customers all over the world. The firm was reorganized as the Sumter Telephone Supply Company in 1914, and again as the Sumter Telephone Repair Company in 1918, but never regained the prominence seen in the first decade of the 20th century.

Several of the items made by The Sumter Telephone Mfg. Co. still exist. Pictured below is one of the wall-mounted phones the company helped to make popular. This one is still in excellent condition after 100 years. I have also heard of switchboards made by the company that still exist. Pictured below the phone is one of the

company's nameplates, which was attached to each telephone or switchboard the company produced.



A SOUTH CAROLINA FOOTBALL TOKEN

Tony Chibbaro

The final 2012 college football standings were released earlier today, less than 24 hours after the Alabama Crimson Tide shut down the LSU Tigers in the National Championship game. Football fans in South Carolina were blessed with two teams in the polls. Both USC and Clemson had winning seasons and were rewarded with Top 25 rankings. Their successes reminded me of an exonomic item that I acquired late last year.



Pictured above is the obverse of a football-shaped advertising token issued by a Greenville merchant that details the Furman University football schedule for 1923 on the reverse.

The 32x51mm brass token was issued by the firm of J.O. Jones & Co. of Greenville, which specialized in the sale of men's clothing. The company was in business from 1907 through the middle of 1933, when the effects of the Great Depression put the company out of business. The store sold such upscale brands as Nettleton Shoes and Hart, Schaffner & Marx suits (as noted on the obverse seen above), and sales of these higher-priced lines suffered greatly in the economic downturn.

The reverse of the token, shown below, features the full schedule of Furman's football games for the year 1923, displayed in a vertical fashion. The home games are listed on the top half of the token, while the away games are shown on the bottom half. The Hurricane, as the Furman football team was called in 1923, hosted Presbyterian, The Citadel, Davidson, Wake Forest, SC College (now USC), Newberry, Erskine, and Clemson.



The team traveled to play Virginia, Mercer, Davidson, and Richmond. The amazing thing that

I learned while researching the token is that the team won 10 of their 11 games that year, losing only to Clemson by 1 point, 7 to 6, in the last game of the season. Undoubtedly they were the champions of their conference that year.

Interestingly I have an almost identical token displaying the Furman football schedule for the preceding year (1922). The token was issued by the same clothing firm in Greenville and features an identical obverse. The reverse lists only the home games for the Furman squad that year. Unfortunately the team did not enjoy as much success in 1922, as their record was 7-4, with losses to Georgia, Richmond, South Carolina, and Davidson.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! REMEMBER THE MAY 12 CARTS
MEETING IN CLEMMONS, NC
SEND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY AUCTION**

North Carolina Collector

Buyer of NC Singles or Collections
State sections of B&D for sale/trade
Trader list for all states tokens
Enthusiastic researcher
**Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr.
Brevard, NC 28712
828-883-8028 tokenaddict@citcom.net**

Want to buy southern states tokens. You price or I will make an offer, your choice. I don't make flea market offers. Pay top dollar for tokens I need and top wholesale for tokens I have.

I want mavericks and one is fine. Give me a chance, we will make a deal.

Want to buy R. G. Dun and Bradstreets
1963 & newer
1882, 1884 & 1897
Need a full book for 1910, 1911 or 1912



Tony Chibbaro's program on Fort Sumter Numismatics at the CARTS/SETS meeting.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

I'M STILL LOOKING FOR NICE TOKENS FROM THE PACOLET MANUFACTURING COMPANY AND THE CLIFTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY. I will pay up to \$200 for tokens in nice condition from either of these cotton mills. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127. Phone: 803-530-3668, email: chibbaro@mindspring.com

CARTS NEEDS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FUND RAISING AUCTION. Send Contributions to Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729.

WANTED: ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW FIND REPORTS, ETC. *CARTSNEWS* is only as good as CARTS members make it.

FOR SALE

CHUCK DOES COWPENS: COWPENS SC MILLS STORE TOKENS, dates are 1932 and 1933. Recently discovered supply: 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, and \$1.00. Ask me about the rare 50¢. Chuck Stroud 864-489-5115. Email: helo182@live.com.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2012 DUES, MAIL THAT
CHECK NOW TO**

Bob King, 709 Cardinal Drive, Brevard, NC 29712

CARTS Membership and Dues: Application for membership in CARTS is invited from anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.